the International Border in Jammu Sector was made which was effectively implemented with effect from 23rd November, 1998. This resulted in return of border population to their villages. But due to Kargil war, the scenario along the International Border completely changed and unprovoked firing restarted which continued till November, 1999 when bi-annual meeting between BSF and Pak rangers was held again at Lahore where this point was discussed and both sides agreed to instruct their troops not to resort to unprovoked firing.

(d) After this agreement, unprovoked firing has reduced, although some unprovoked firing by Pak troops and its retaliation by Indian troops on Jammu border is taking place regularly..

Tapes of Azhar Masood's Speeches

629. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news- item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 12th January, 2000 captioned "Tapes of Azhar Masood's speeches pepper Kanpur";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken against those trying to fan communal passions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Union Government immediately on reciept of such information have sensitised the concerned State Governments to take appropriate action. Advisories have been sent to the State Government from time to time take appropriate preventive/precautionary measures to curb such activities.

(c) Activities of all organisations having a bearing on maintenance of communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of law enforcement agencies and requisite legal action is taken where necessary.

Militancy in Kashmir Valley

630. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spurt in the militant attacks in Kashmir Valley especially since the hijaking of Indian Airlines plane and release of three jailed militants;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents; and

(c) the steps being taken to face the challenge effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For tackling the problems of terrorism in J&K, the Government have adopted a multipronged approach which includes interalia strengthening the border management, to curb infiltration neutralising plans of militants by Pro-active action against them in hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through Unified Headquarter operations group at various levels, improved technology weapons and equipment for the Security forces, galvanising development programmes and deepening the democratic process etc. This approach which is dynamic in nature is constantly reviewed to meet the changing strategy of the terrorists.

Law to Replace Tada

† 631. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to make any stringent punitive law like TADA in view of growing number of terrorist incidents;

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOMEAFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1995 which seeks to provide an alternate law for combating terrorism was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in May, 1995 when the erstwhile Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 was allowed to lapse. This Bill has remained pending because of absence of political consensus on the passing of the Bill. On the advice of this Ministry, Law Commission has now taken up the study for formulating requisite law for combating terrorism in the country.

Escape of Prisoners from Jails

† 632. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.